

wherein

m and n, independently, are each 0-20,

k, l, q and r are each, independently, [is] 0 or 1,

R is [hydrogen, optionally] H, C₁-C₆-alkyl, OR¹-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or CH₂COOR¹,

R¹ is [hydrogen] H, C₁-C₆-alkyl or benzyl[,];
and

X is a hydrogen atom and/or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83[,];

with the provisos that:

at least two of the substituents X represent a metal ion equivalent; [that]

one of the substituents Z¹ and Z² is hydrogen and the other is not hydrogen; [and that]

when n and l each are 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1; [that]

- (O)₄-R is not -OH; [and that]

Z¹ and Z² are not -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-CH₂-COOCH₂C₆H₅, -CH₂-C₆H₅ or -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-(CH₂)₅-COOCH₂C₆H₅ [,];

Z¹ is not phenyl when Z² is H; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

Claim 4, line 2: Change "CH₂-C₆H₄-OCH₃, -CH₂-C₆H₅," to
-- -CH₂-C₆H₄-OCH₃, --.

Claim 5, line 2: Change "CH₂-C₆H₄-OCH₃, -CH₂-C₆H₅," to
-- -CH₂-C₆H₄-OCH₃, --.

F 8/ (Amended.) A ^{method} compound of claim 2, wherein at least [one] three X [is] groups represent a Gd ion.

F 9/ (Amended.) A ^{method} compound of claim 4, wherein at least [one] three X [is] groups represent a Gd ion.

F 10/ (Amended.) A ^{method} compound of claim 5, wherein at least [one] three X [is] groups represent a Gd ion.

SUB F²

9. (Amended.) [Gadolinium] A compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is:

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron(III) complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

bismuth complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-[4-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)benzyl]undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

[gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-benzylundecanedioic acid;

ytterbium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-benzylundecanedioic acid;]

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-benzyloxymethylundecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-carboxymethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

europium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof [each a compound of claim 1].

11. (Amended.) A method of enhancing an NMR image comprising administering to a patient a compound of claim 1, wherein at least [one] two X [is] groups represent a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70.

12. (Amended.) A method of enhancing an X-ray image comprising administering to a patient a compound of claim 1, wherein at least [one] two X [is] groups represent a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83.

Claim 16, line 15: Change "57-83," to -- 58-70, --.

Please add the following new claims:

17. A compound according to claim 1, wherein at least two of the X groups represent a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70.

14
F 18. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein two of the X groups represent manganese(II), iron(II), cobalt(II) or copper(II); or three of the X groups represent chromium(III), praseodymium(III), neodymium(III), samarium(III), ytterbium(III), gadolinium(III), terbium(III), dysprosium(III), holmium(III), erbium(III), or iron(III).

15
F 19. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein Z¹ is -C₆H₄-O-C₂H₅ or -C₂H₄-C₆H₄-O-C₂H₅.

16
F 20. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein said compound is gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxyphenyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

17
F 21. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein said compound is a complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxyphenylethyl)undecanedioic acid and a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

18
F 22. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein R is C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkyl substituted by -OR¹.

19
F 23. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein one of Z¹ and Z² is -CH₂-C₆H₄-O-(CH₂)_n-(C₆H₄)₁-(O)_r-R.

20
F 24. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein one of Z¹ and Z² is -(CH₂)_m-C₆H₄-O-CH₂-C₆H₄-(O)_r-R.

21
F 25. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein the X groups which do not represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83 are individually lithium, potassium or sodium, or two such X groups are calcium or magnesium.

22
F 26. A ^{method}~~compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein X groups which are not a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83 represent a salt with ethanolamine, diethanolamine, morpholine, glucamine, N,N-dimethyl-

53